

Darien incident is introduced solely to explain the relations of England and Scotland, Thus, throughout, whenever colonial matters are mentioned they are subordinated altogether to English politics.

Even when the events which happened in the colonies were closely connected with the English events Macaulay related, he was not tempted to narrate them. The struggle between the Stuarts and representative government was not confined to England. Speaking of the reaction which followed the triumph of Charles II over the Whigs Macaulay says :

The Court of King's Bench pronounced that the franchises of the City of London were forfeited to the crown. Flushed with this great victory, the government proceeded to attack the constitutions of other corporations which were governed by Whig officers, and which had been in the habit of returning Whig members to Parliament. Borough after borough was compelled to surrender its privileges ; and new charters were granted which gave the ascendancy everywhere to the Tories.¹

A similar attack on the rights of the English colonies in America followed, but Macaulay omits it, though it was part of the same movement. The government of Charles II had long cherished the design of bringing the colonies directly under the control of the Crown. When the Council of Trade and Plantations was established in

1671 the first
question which came before the commissioners
concerned
New England. ^s For the condition of that
colony | says
Evelyn, * was such that they were able to
contest with all
other plantations about them and there was
fear of their
breaking from all dependence on this nation ;
his Majesty,
therefore, commanded this affair more
expressly/ In